Stampede during recruitment for the Army

†2113. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents of stampede during recruitment for the Army is a common feature;

(b) if so, the number of incidents of stampede occurred at the time of recruitment during the last two years;

(c) whether Government propose to take some steps to check such incidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Two incidents have taken place in the last two years.

(c) and (d) Arrangements are made in consultation with the local civil administration and intelligence agencies to prevent stampedes during recruitment rallies for the Army. Comprehensive security and traffic arrangements along with proper barricading of the recruitment premises is undertaken with the assistance of the local police. Liaison and coordination is maintained with the civil administration official deputed for the purpose of ensuring safe and peaceful conduct of the recruitment rally. Recruiting Officers of the Army have been empowered to cancel the rally in the event of inadequate crowd control arrangements or any other untoward incident/situations.

Hardships faced by civilian employees in settling their GPF claims

2114. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Joint Controller Defence Account (Funds) Central Command are not keeping its records updated and civilian Defence Employees proceeding on retirement are facing difficulties for the final settlement of GPF claims;

(b) whether JCDA (Funds) raise decade old wrong queries relating to loans and recover the amount falsely while settling the GPF claims;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, what are the reaons for not fixing a time period to clear all such GPF claims; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to improve the above situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir, the Office of the Controller of Defence Accounts (Funds) is keeping its records updated in respect of G.P. Funds of the Civilian Defence Employees based on the information received from units/formations and distributed Data Processing (DDP) Controllers on regular basis. Due to involvement of large number of agencies located all over the country some times delays occur in solving the discrepancies which are rectified on priority basis.

(b) On receipt of final settlement claims of the subscribers their GPF accounts are reviewed/recast and accounts completed covering the entire service and three months time is given for representing against any mistakes/errors as per Government rules. No false recoveries are made.

(c) A time limit of 30 days from the receipt of documents has already been prescribed for settlement of claims except in exceptional circumstances where records are incomplete necessiating back - reference to units/formations.

(d) Steps are taken from time to time for speedy settlement of final GPF claims by way of timely supply of Annual GPF statements, rectification of errors/omissions, circulation of check-lists to avoid incomplete claims. A Departmental Committee has also been constituted in October, 2002 to go into the aspect of improving the existing funds system with the aid of Information Technology.

Youth from Southern States Joining the IAF

2115. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a decline in the number of youth from Southern States joining the Indian Air Force;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of youth who joined Air Force during last three years, year-wise; and